

# *Nation*

Volume 13, No. 12 • April 28, 2006

## State of the Nation

Interview with  
Grand Chief Matthew Mukash

Chisasibi's wind farm plans

Happy goose break

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On behalf of the  
Council and the  
entire community of

Moose Cree First Nation, we

# CONGRATULATE

our hometown NHL Hockey  
Star, Jonathan Cheechoo



## Achievements include:

- Winner of The Maurice Richard Trophy  
An annual award given to the NHL's top goal scorer.
- 56 Goals Scored in the 2005-06 Season
- First player to record five or more hat tricks in one season since 1996-97.

*Jonathan,  
you have made Moose Cree First Nation  
very proud and we wish you continued success  
in the upcoming playoffs.*



Photo Credit to Don Smith & Rocky Widner

# Jonathan Cheechoo – Aboriginal role model

By Steve Bonspiel

San Jose Sharks right-winger Jonathan Cheechoo has finished the NHL regular season with a league-leading 56 goals, winning the Maurice "Rocket" Richard trophy in the process. In doing so, he joins heady company.

Philadelphia Flyers right-winger Reggie Leach was the last Aboriginal to score 50 goals, during the 1979-80 regular season. Leach leads all Native NHLers with a 61-goal season in 1975-76. He also went on to set the NHL record for most goals in a play-off season with 19 and most goals in a season, regular and playoff combined, with 80.

But unlike Leach, who suffered from alcoholism, Cheechoo is a true Aboriginal role model. But he's one that some people take for granted.

I've heard people say, "He wouldn't be so good if it weren't for (Joe) Thornton." That may or may not be true. But why, I wonder, do some people feel it necessary to bash their brothers?

He's had a phenomenal season and is a superstar-in-waiting. The second-to-last week of the NHL season saw Thornton and Cheechoo share the player-of-the-week awards, with 11 and 10 points respectively, in four games. If these guys keep it up, we might be talking about a Stanley Cup in a couple of months.

The Sharks are a bit of a dark-horse candidate going into the playoffs and could knock off the Nashville Predators, their first-round opponent. If that happens, you can bet most of the scoring will be done by the dynamic duo.

If the Sharks falter in the playoffs, don't be surprised if Cheechoo and Thornton are invited over to Europe to play alongside each other for Team Canada.

And the best part about him is he's constantly working to improve his speed and shot. He knows he can be better and isn't afraid to admit it.

Six more goals and he would have been the highest-scoring Native in NHL history. That's not something we should take lightly.

He is also a class act all the way. He selflessly gives his time at different events and his quiet demeanor and willingness to speak to kids is uncommon in the age of the millionaire hockey player.

His true talent might not be scoring goals; it just might be staying humble and appreciating everything as it comes.

His popularity and talent will only help foster better young hockey players in Eeyou Istchee. He's showing our youth that if they want something all they have to do is put their minds to it – and work very hard.

I asked him a couple years ago if he was shooting to be a 50-goal scorer some day. He was quick to dismiss the notion and sounded uncomfortable at the thought. There's no need to ask that question anymore, although I guess the next logical step is to ask him when he'll bag 60.

Twenty years from now there will be even more Aboriginal hockey players in the NHL and you can bet when they are asked who inspired them to get to where they are, their first answer – after their parents – will be Jonathan Cheechoo.

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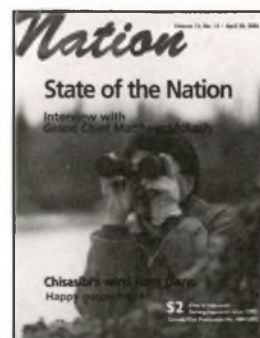
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Photo: Will Nicholls

Design: Martin Dubé



# Making much ado about...

by  
Sonny Orr



I once picked up a worm and held it squiggling and squirming to my sibling's face. Of course she screamed until she noticed that I was having fun with it and she insisted on playing with it. "No!" I obtusely declared to my little sis. "This is a boy's territory. Worms are not meant for little girls or ladies." (Not that I knew any difference in those days.)

Today, of course, I'd gladly hand the worm over, knowing that the poor critter is basically sexless and apolitical and that the nicer gender should have its day (or generation) to do what used to be men's business (excluding the men's room antics).

Today, I see that many roles that used to be considered for one gender and taboo for the other are finally becoming removed. I have dishpan hands from too much Palmolive yet can still handle the shotgun unwaveringly pointed at waterfowl from my trusty blind. In the next blind, a long-haired lady knocks down a gander, although I find her goose calling higher pitched. Somehow it nicely complements my baritone-based voice. Sort of like Johnny Cash and June Carter in camouflage and brandishing 12-gauge shotguns.

Another role I see the walls coming down in is in the construction industry. I feel proud of the posters depicting women with welding masks and wearing coveralls, finally someone who can artistically weld objects with hands that formally embroidered moccasins. Soon, we'll see the baby carriage give way to road-building bulldozer drivers with bangs.

I have nothing against the fairer sex, in fact I live with one and I feel that in today's world we must all come together and break down all barriers that we once felt were our right to maintain and sustain a mentality that prevented our growth as a people.

Perhaps one day, all roles will be reversed and daddies will be nannies and mothers will be big mommas with clout. Thinking back to the days when all shared the same workloads, where sweat was shared chopping wood and gathering our natural foods. Even children were treated like little adults, all had a role to play, and gender was just an inconvenience that was hindered by new awareness that played constantly on television and in books that were obviously written by men for men. I have nothing against men's books; I tend to find that the pictures are great and the writing also short and sweet and easy to understand.

I could never really understand all the romance novels, which I can say I never read, ergo the complete non-understanding on my part. I could still appreciate the cover, however, which seemed to be rather titillating at first glance. But my roving eye caught a glimpse of the complications of romance within the pages. I still have no real sense of romance, but I can safely say that romance wasn't really my main objective.

Gradually, the role I play today to something of an overall person who can do anything, (except herd sheep somewhere in the Rockies a la Brokeback), someone who can say that my life has evolved with the times to accommodate the changes in our overall lifestyle, someone who doesn't really care about the lines drawn in the sand about who's who in the battle of the sexes. I have to say that it used to be that the work of a woman is hard to do for a man. But when it comes to doing a man's job, women are increasingly taking over the kingdom of man (when a house used to be a castle) and wielding the hammer more often. I just hope that the toilet seat remains up forever, in defiance of our social changes.

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# Chisasibi planning massive wind farm

By Steve Bonspiel

Chisasibi's Yudin Energy has applied for an export permit from the National Energy Board to build a wind farm that will generate up to 1,650 megawatts; and with it, the ability to sell excess energy to the U.S. and Ontario as well as other parts of Quebec.

Yudin and its project partner, energy startup Ventus, have been studying the patterns of wind in and around their territory since 2004 and the findings are encouraging.

"The meteorological towers are about 40-50 metres high," said Yudin Chairman Roderick Pachano. "There are instruments on the towers that measure the wind, the temperature and all sorts of other data. We have a little windmill there that produces power in case we run into really cold temperatures. In that case, it'll come on and heat it up a bit."

Pachano said the towers have been placed at a half dozen sites that produce the most wind in Eeyou Istchee, including the Brisay area near the La Grande complex.

"We entered into a partnership in summer 2004 with Ventus. We started the wind investigations that summer and have had our meteorological towers up

since then. We've had over a year and a half of data in certain places and we'll be putting some more up this spring in the south of LG-2," he said.

The farm is expected to cost \$3 billion and produce enough energy that Pachano said would benefit everyone. "It makes good economic sense. It's good not only for the community but for the province and the industry. It's also good for Hydro Quebec if they wish to participate. This is probably more true green power than hydroelectricity and is much cleaner. I think the people here have an opportunity to participate in the economic development of the territory. They can achieve a real sense of pride by accomplishment. We can be one of the leaders in this area of development."

The partners are still seeking investors.

The idea came to Chisasibi Chief Abraham Rupert a couple of years ago when he got a call from John Douglas, President and CEO of Ventus.

"I'm not looking at right now, I'm looking at future generations," said Rupert. "It's something that we as First Nations can take part in the development, especially how we understand the land. Wind energy is









perfect with the way we look at the land and the environment around us."

Rupert said that Hydro Quebec has been contacted and Yudin has applied for a working partnership to have Hydro sell to and buy from Yudin, but that talks have stalled.

"We tried to discuss with Hydro, but it didn't go anywhere," said Rupert. "The door is still open and we're still willing to discuss this with them. But it's a choice they'll have to make, whether to sit down with us or not. Our plans are still to forge ahead."

Hydro spokespeople did not respond to requests for comment.

The energy generated from the proposed farm would also be enough to power the town – sort of. When asked if wind power would eventually replace hydroelectric energy, Pachano replied "the wind power is only generated when there's wind and I don't think the people will accept sitting in the

dark when there's no wind," he joked. "Right now the only way you can store the energy is batteries, so you probably need quite a few batteries for a community the size of Chisasibi."

Further data needs to be collected before he would say for sure if a full-blown switchover would be feasible.

There is also a limit as to how the windmills, which can reach up to 150 metres high, will operate. "The towers will only operate between 6 kilometres an hour and up to 50," Pachano explained. "After 50, you have to stop until the wind lessens a bit because it will be too hard on the engine and the turbines will be moving way too fast. So we have a problem when there's not

enough wind and a problem when there's too much wind."

The towers will range in size from 1.5 megawatts up to 3.8 megawatts, depending on availability. Pachano also said that they will have a cold weather package that enables the towers to work in cold weather.

"There will be huge economic spin offs," said Pachano. "Not only in terms of jobs

during the construction, but also the maintenance of the operation after that. It is part of the community's goal to work towards more economic self-sufficiency. They (the community) are looking at this very positively after having to live through huge hydroelectric developments in their territory and the impacts that had on their lifestyle."



## in brief

### Hydro-Québec left red-faced again

Hydro-Québec was left scrambling earlier this month as important security documents were found on a metro bench in Montreal.

A Radio-Canada employee found 300 pages describing new security measures in an abandoned file folder in an east-end metro station.

The breach was the second in the past year. A Radio-Canada crew freely entered a hydro dam last year, embarrassing the energy giant.

The documents bring to light that breach and the pages contain Hydro's response to it. They contain highly classified passwords for security systems and the home phone numbers of company executives.

Hydro-Quebec said that the documents were stolen while an employee

was at lunch, and although it was not long before they were found, all passwords will be changed and security tightened – again.

### Matthew Mukash, wildlife protector

Grand Chief Matthew Mukash has become the newest member of Cree Wildlife Protection as he was sworn in as an auxiliary April 7 in Quebec City.

Mukash successfully completed the training program provided by the Protection de la faune du Québec. "He may thus provide the necessary information to the Cree Nation to favour the conservation and development of wildlife and its habitats, while setting an example for his community," Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife Minister Pierre Corbeil said in an official press release.

Through the Paix des Braves, Eeyou have an easier time accessing the training program of Cree wildlife protection officers and the training of Cree wildlife protection auxiliaries.

"I am proud to announce that we have respected our commitment to train Cree wildlife protection officers and wildlife protection auxiliaries," said Corbeil. "To date, approximately 300 master trappers have taken part in a seminar during the course of which they have come to realize the importance and significance of their new duties."

The press release continued: "The mandate of wildlife protection auxiliaries is to provide assistance to the wildlife protection officers in the exercise of their duties and, by the same token, to raise awareness among the Cree as to the importance of respecting the laws and regulations governing hunting, fishing and trapping on their respective territories."





## O-J Midget 'A' team deals with tragedy

A talented Oujé-Bougoumou Midget 'A' team, also made up of players from Waswanipi and Mistissini, suffered a major blow as they lost one of their supporters in a car crash during a trip to the Inter-regional hockey championships in Farnham. The tragedy was evidently too much to bear as the team went on to lose in the tournament semi-finals.

Maggie Capississit-LaCroix from O-J was killed April 7 in the vehicle accident on highway 167. She and five others were on their way to the tournament, near Montreal, to see her son Joey.

At 11 am, their van tried to pass another vehicle at km 152, between La Dore and St-Felicien. The Surete du Quebec said the driver lost control and ended up in a water-filled ditch. Capississit-LaCroix died at the scene and two others were taken to Chibougamau hospital.

Still, the team managed to win its first two games at the championships. "The first game we won 7-2 against Gatineau," said a sombre William Saganash, OJ's coach. "Then we played Repentigny and won in overtime 8-7."

But they lost the next game, an April 9 semi-final match up against Delson, 11-2. The team's focus was clearly not on the game.

"We lost because of what the kids were going through," said Saganash. "They were depressed and couldn't focus on the game itself. We had about 5 or 6 players in the penalty box and we lost."

Most of the players on the team were related to Capississit-LaCroix, Saganash noted.

"Her son Joey came with the team and played with us, but I knew it was hard for him to stay focused. If this wouldn't have happened I think we would have made it all the way. There were a lot of scouts from Midget AAA and Junior and they said we would have won the whole tournament."

The tournament pitted regional championship teams from Quebec against each other for hockey supremacy in the province.

Several team members went to the funeral in O-J April 10 wearing their jerseys in a show of respect to LaCroix, who was a huge supporter of Eénouch hockey.

Despite the terrible tragedy, Saganash chose to look on the bright side. "I was happy with the turnout at the tournament. Most of the kids will be receiving

tryouts for other camps next year. We had about seven kids who were scouted," said Saganash, whose son was invited to Amos to try out for Midget AAA.

The team's leading scorer was Martin Nakogee. He had 5 goals 3 assists in the OT game against Repentigny alone, along with the winning goal. Overall, he had 8 goals and 3 assists.

## Waskaganish wins inter-Regionals in Cowansville

Spurred on by their undefeated season and cohesive team chemistry, the Waskaganish Future Wings have proven that when it comes to Atom 'A' hockey in Quebec, they are the best!

Masson-Anger Sharks and they came out on top 4-2.

"When we got home to Waskaganish there was a parade waiting for us," said Hester. "They got a real kick out of it. We went around the community in their hockey jerseys to show off the banner they won. Everyone was honking their horns."

The tourney was a cap of a perfect season. The Future Wings did not lose a single game during the regular season and a host of other tournaments. Hester stopped counting the wins at a certain point, but not before he reached the number 50.

Hester's son Alex led the team in scoring with a record-setting 107 points in the 14 game-season. Close behind was his nephew Chris, with 104.



"We were the heavy favorites going into the tournament," said coach Charles Hester. "We played against the best teams from each region in the province."

"The first game we won 5-4 even though we got in at 4 in the morning and played at 9. The guys were tired," he said.

They followed that up with a convincing 6-1 win and a 6-4 win in the semi-finals. The final pitted them against The

Hester told *the Nation* that the kids were jubilant on the way up from Montreal in the bus. "We had a little party. They were watching *The Mighty Ducks* and singing 'We Are the Champions'. It was a dream season for us. We were really confident we were going to win."



# Pulling strings with Grand Chief Matthew Mukash

The State of the Cree Nation Interview

By Will Nicholls

**When *the Nation* began publishing a dozen years ago, we approached then-Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come for a “State of the Nation” interview. We have continued this tradition with each Grand Chief so that the Cree people can get an idea of the thinking in their Nation’s highest political office.**

**The newest Grand Chief, Matthew Mukash, has had perhaps one of the more difficult trails to blaze since that time. That may be due to a style and an ideology that are far different**

**from that of his predecessor, former Grand Chief Dr. Ted Moses.**

**Mukash was elected as Grand Chief on September 15 with 55.9 per cent of the vote despite warning the Cree world as people knew it would be no more. It was perhaps the dirtiest political campaign Crees have ever seen. But Mukash weathered this and is now at the helm. It will be interesting to see what waters he steers the Cree Nation into during the next four years.**

**The Nation: How are you doing in terms of carrying out your election promises?**

**Grand Chief Matthew Mukash:** Since our election, Deputy Grand Chief Ashley Iserhoff and I have tried to meet with as many Cree entities and organizations as possible. Some of those we have met with over the past few months have been the Cree Nation Youth Council, the Council of Elders and the leadership of various Cree entities, such as the CREECO, the CRA Board of Compensation, the Cree Board of Health and the Cree School Board. The intent of these meetings was to establish a basis for good working relationships between our entities, organizations and governance structures in the Cree Nation. There will be more of these meetings in the future to keep this network of cooperation and accessibility strong so we can continue to build upon what we have accomplished to date.

Up to this point in time, six months following our election, Ashley and I have also met with a number of the Cree Chiefs and Councils in a series of commu-

nity visits. We coordinate these with the Chief and Council of each community, in order to give them the opportunity to coincide them with regular Council meetings, and if possible other community events they may wish us to participate in locally. We still have a few communities to visit. The purpose of the visits is to spend time with each community’s leadership and members, to become familiar with their goals, issues and way of doing things so we as leaders can be well informed on how each community would like to be supported at various levels of its development.

As far as our accessibility to the people is concerned, well, with the community visits, relocating meetings to the communities, and the development of an internal communications strategy – I believe we are improving upon this daily. However, it is important to note, there are a large amount of requests we receive each day – which means we cannot attend all events or meetings. But it also does not mean that we do not want to stay informed on what has happened or been discussed at these events. We appreciate the inclusion given to us in any Cree event, and often





think about what issues are being focused on in the Cree world. A good deal of our time in the past few months have also been taken up to ensure that the change of leadership does not unnecessarily impede the pace at which continuity flows at the organizational levels as well as in on-going negotiations. A lot of my time spent in the south was to get acquainted with various

to hold meetings with other Aboriginal groups or visitors in Nemaska as much as possible. Thus, one campaign promise fulfilled. This is a major change from the previous administration.

Overall, I think the GCCEI/CRA staff has, to a certain degree, adjusted well to the leadership change.

### **Has there been a change in negotiations with the Quebec government?**

First, I would like to say, given the positive meeting we had in March with Premier Charest, a good healthy relationship exists between the Cree people and the people of Quebec. We as societies, and neighbours, are committed to building upon this relationship to create a stronger economy and greater opportunities for our people. As much as Quebec has had a new leader since the Paix des Braves, so have the Cree – and both of us are in agreement that we want to work closely together.

I think though, what you are hinting at is if there were any issues with perhaps past roles I might have played in the Cree Nation, and if they affect our relationship with Quebec. No, they do not. I think the Government of Quebec, and the Quebec public, is aware of where the Cree people stood in the 1990s over hydroelectric development with respect to the Great Whale River Project and the NBR projects. Therefore, it is no secret that, I, in my roles at the time – as a member of the Cree Nation, or as Grand Council Liaison, or as Chief of Whapmagoostui, played a prominent role in a very well-publicized campaign. This was a united position of the Cree people, and many of the past leaders participated in this campaign as well. I think it brought us to a different relationship today, one where we can better understand and respect each other.

I think initially there was uncertainty within the Quebec government, and perhaps with the public, after my election. There was speculation or rumours I might go against the 2002 Agreement Concerning a New Relationship with Quebec, or Paix Des Braves. To clear up any misunderstandings, as Deputy Grand Chief I advocated for a process internally, to allow the Cree Nation more time to study and understand the agreement. This position was in response to growing requests for a more informed and longer process. This said, as Grand Chief, I appre-

files that deal with the implementation of various agreements and on-going negotiations.

Over time, we wish to be more accessible to the people. We know that tremendous wisdom flows from the people – the women, the men, the youth, the elders and the children – wisdom that needs to be cultivated and used in planning our Nation's future.

### **Your working style seems different then the former Grand Chief. How has the staff adjusted?**

A bureaucracy in any organization, whether it is public or private, always needs a little time to adjust to a leadership change. The GCCEI/CRA government organization is no different. The issue is always how a new leader is viewed or gets accepted as the new captain of the ship. It takes time. It's important for us to establish a relationship of confidence and trust throughout our government organization.

The Deputy Grand Chief and I have moved the Executive Office from Montreal to Nemaska. Both our Executive Assistants now work out of the Nemaska head office of the GCCEI/CRA, and we try







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- The Education Consultant of your community

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ciate that a process has occurred, and the agreement was passed that programs, development, and relationships have been built upon over the past four years. Unfortunately, certain members of the press over the past few months have created even more uncertainty and misunderstandings concerning my position.

Therefore, I felt it was important to meet with the Premier of Quebec to reassure him of our commitment to build upon a good relationship with Quebec for the benefit of both our peoples, and to dispel any misconceptions. We did this, so in answer to your question – yes, negotiations with Quebec have changed, in the sense, I believe we are both committed to building something stronger and better together.

**On March 24, you had a meeting with Jean Charest, the Premier of Quebec. What was the purpose of your meeting?**

As I mentioned earlier, it was a good first meeting, and I think laid the foundation for more such meetings. It is important that we as Cree have good relationships with the governments of Canada and Quebec. After all, in 1975 we made a modern-day treaty with them, the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA). My meeting with Premier Charest was about establishing a good relationship with Quebec. It was also about moving forward with implementation of our treaty rights under the JBNQA and its subsequent amendments as well, the commitments under the Paix des Braves being a part of the implementation efforts as well. We also talked about the importance of Quebec's support of the Cree-federal negotiations to which the Premier agreed. We discussed the Cree Nation's interest in wind energy development; as well as implementation issues under the 2002 New Relationship Agreement. We discussed the outstanding

justice and policing files, the Mistissini/Ouje-Bougoumou land transfer, the recognition of Washaw Sibi, the dissolution of the Societe de la Baie James and the mandate of the James Bay Municipality. We also talked about the Whapmagoostui First Nation's request to be connected to the James Bay Highway by way of an access road.

Overall, the meeting was productive and very positive. We agreed to work together openly and honestly. We left the meeting with a sense of accomplishment.

**How have the negotiations with Canada been going?**

As most people know, after over 30 years since the signing of the 1975 JBNQA, the Government of Canada has yet to fulfill certain of its obligations under the treaty. Negotiations were at a good pace, but they were affected by the recent federal elections. We have the support of Government of Quebec in returning to those tables, and efforts have been made to put us back on track to our pre-election period. All indications have been that the Government of Canada continues to be responsive to our efforts, and certainly this is a priority of our administration.

**It was suggested that files such as policing and housing would suffer. Has this happened?**

Under the JBNQA, among other provisions, the funding for justice and policing is a joint responsibility between Canada and Quebec. As this was also something discussed with Premier Charest during our meeting, we have had good indications the Quebec funding is in place. With respect to the other portion, the Government of Canada has also indicated their funding is there as well. On housing, there is a table in place with both Cree and Canadian representatives on it. Canada has in the past claimed that housing for the Crees is not a treaty right under the JBNQA. We continue to be committed to try to resolve this matter in the realization that housing needs are of great importance to the Cree Nation. Shelter is a fundamental human right.

**The latest Cree election saw an almost American style of running for office. At one point religion as well as name calling entered into the elec-**





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of Nemaska*

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Eeyou Istchee a  
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Goose Break with  
your families.**

**From the Chief and  
Council of the Cree  
Nation of Nemaska**

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the tradition*





**tion. Would you care to comment on this?**

In elections in the non-native world, intentional character assassination of a candidate is a common strategy, but I am not sure this works well in the Cree world. Our campaign team tried to remain focused on the platform issues as

much as possible. We did not allow ourselves to get absorbed into negative energy that was prevalent at the time. As for the use of religion and the name calling, this unfortunately happens, whether it is in the native or non-native society. This will happen in the future, unless we as a people adopt a collective will to change this for the better. At my age, I have learned to place little or no judgment on others who dis-

play contempt in my person for any reason through language or action. Our Elders remind us that when we talk about others or create unfounded rumours, we are not only attacking them but their family members as well. I think we need to be careful on how we as a Nation feed into this, as afterward, we all remain here in Eeyou Istchee. The potential for creating hatred or ill feelings towards individuals or their families could put people's safety or well-being in danger. This is all I can say about this.

**Where do you see the Cree Nation going in the next four years under your term?**

Like any leader, I would like to see growth, change for the better. I would like to see the work that Ashley and I are investing our time and energies into take hold and lead to a stronger, more accessible, transparent and participatory form of Cree government in Eeyou Istchee. I would like us, as a Nation, to take the time to go through a process of self-assessment to determine our direction in terms of cul-

tural, social, economic and political development.

Evolving as a strong nation with strong and vibrant culture and language alongside or vis-à-vis other nations of the world is a dream that I have and truly believe in. In the next four years, I would like to see our nation move towards a major change, a change for the better which will need the involvement and participation of our elders, youth, men, women and children to realize. We need to make this happen in order to have control of our future as a nation.

**What has been your greatest challenge to date?**

The greatest challenge for me has been keeping up with the demands for meetings with people from different organizations and individuals who would like to sit down with me and talk. Because of the demands of the job, especially after an election, it is not always possible to meet everyone who wants to see me. But I have a good support team and we delegate responsibilities to others within the organization according to priority. Because of his extensive experience in public functions, Deputy Grand Chief Ashley Iserhoff provides tremendous support in this regard. We work well together and I am very thankful for that.

**How has your family been handling all the traveling?**

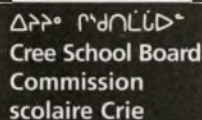
My children are now independent and they live on their own. I miss my grandchildren very much. My wife, Danielle, has decided to continue to work in Whapmagoostui as an educator. We have been together for 33 years; she understands the requirements of the job, and I am greatly thankful for this. She gives me all the support I need. We get to see each other at least one week in a month, which is good. We plan to travel together during the school break in the summer. As for me, I have been in politics for more than 12 years; traveling has almost been a way of life for me. It comes with the job, and I am used to it.

**How many strings on a violin?**

Four, but when you break a string, no matter which one, you are left with three.







**Best wishes**  
for a safe and  
successful Goose Hunt  
from all of us at the  
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**May all of you have  
a safe, happy and  
prosperous  
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From the Cree Nation  
of Eastmain.**

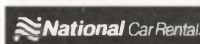


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# Dreams can come true

By Steve Bonspiel

## Children's Wish Foundation grants three wishes in Eeyou Istchee

Three very sick children in Eeyou Istchee are smiling today thanks to the Children's Wish Foundation. One is on his way to Disneyland in California. And two others are also looking forward to visiting Mickey Mouse and his band of animated friends in the near future.

Their dreams are coming true because of the Mistissini branch of the Children's Wish Foundation. It has only been open for a year-and-a-half and they are in the process of granting their first wishes to sick kids.

The wishes are an important aid on the road to recovery for both child and parent, according to Marc-André Beaudoin, Coordinator for the Wish Foundation in Mistissini. "The main thing is to give relief to the parent and the child," he said. "Most of the wishes are to go to Disneyland. When they go on these trips the parents have a good time with their children apart from the hospitals or clinics. We really try to focus on that relationship and make sure they spend a lot of quality time together. Even medically, once they come from a trip like that they're more relaxed. So it helps a child to heal. We're trying to give hope to a child that has a life-threatening illness."

Beaudoin added that close to 90 per cent of children with a life-threatening disease who have their wish granted make a full recovery.

Waskaganish's Norm Blacksmith's dream growing up was to visit Disneyland and see up close the animat-

ed characters he has come to adore. At press time, he was doing just that.

"We're very excited," said his father Ivan, who left with his family on April 20. "He's always wanted to go to Disneyland since he was four years old. Now he's going to get his chance. We've had so much on our minds and we'll

undergo a few more weeks of chemotherapy.

He was so happy in fact that he was able to suit up for his Novice 'A' team, the Waskaganish Future Wings, and help his teammates win back-to-back tournaments in Amos and Val d'Or.

Their home community of Waskaganish had raised



Courtesy of Denise Brown

The brown family

finally get a chance to relax a little bit."

Norm was born with liver sclerosis and underwent a liver transplant in 2002, but he wasn't out of the woods just yet. Last January, doctors discovered a cancerous tumor near his rectum. They operated and got most of it, but couldn't get it all. They chose to aggressively treat the rest of it with chemotherapy.

"They told us one of the risks involved with that transplant was cancer," said his mother Sarah. "It was very devastating when the doctor informed us. We cried when we found out."

After a few months however, the Blacksmiths received some great news. Doctors told them that the tumor was gone and Norm's spirits were instantly elevated. But he will still have to

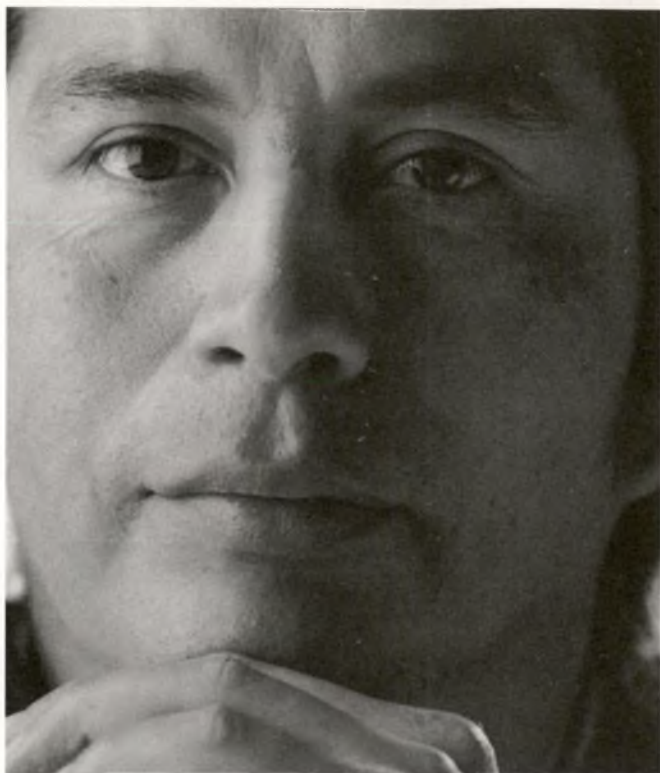
over \$10,000 for them, but they got a call one day telling them that the Children's Wish Foundation was sending them to Disneyland as part of Norm's long time dream.

"I'm very thankful that they did this for my son," said Norm's beaming father.

This is the first time, Beaudoin said, that Cree kids have benefited from the Children's Wish Foundations' generous support. Last year an Inuk child received a wish, but that was as close as it has come until now. Beaudoin admits not many people know about the Foundation.

"Our job is to try to get the foundation known," he said. "We bring pamphlets to the hospital and call people. We try to get in touch with the doctors and the clinics where we expect to see sick children. In the Cree world it's usually by word-of-





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mouth. So then we try to reach the parents and tell them about it."

The foundation has been around since 1986 and has granted over 11,600 wishes in that time.

Tina Brown, 9, was diagnosed with ALL (Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia). One November day in Eastmain her legs felt weak and she couldn't go back to school. Her mother was beside herself when after a visit and a blood test at the local clinic, they sent them to the Montreal Children's Hospital where the cancer was discovered.

"I was devastated," said her mom Denise. "I can't really describe it, I was shocked and surprised. I wasn't really expecting it."

The strength of her child, she told the Nation, is what keeps her going some nights when the overwhelming sadness of her situation hits her square in the face. "She's very strong; sometimes I feel she's so much stronger than me," said her mom. "It's hard to see your children go through that type of pain and not being able to make it go away. She'll be like 'It's okay mom, I can take it.' She keeps everything together and makes it easier."

"She's still thinking about going away to school and eventually become a teacher. She still has plans for her future."

Doctors have told the Browns that Tina has an over 85 per cent chance of survival with this type of Leukemia. Although it is an uphill struggle, especially at the stage her treatment is at. "She's at a time in her treatment where she's very weak and finds it difficult to move and stuff like that."

When they found out, Tina was confused. A word like cancer, although scary to adults, didn't make much sense to her. "She didn't really understand it," said Denise.

"We didn't know what to expect. It wasn't until she lost her hair. When it started falling out she realized what was really happening and I guess me too. We were a little scared because it comes out in clumps sometimes and it's frightening. But then you get over it because it's only hair."

Dancing Water Binette-Wapachee, 7, has also had her share of heartache. She underwent her third open-heart surgery procedure in December at the Ste. Justine's Hospital in Montreal.

"She was born with half a heart," her mother Alice told the Nation. After the last operation "we're hoping she'll be okay at least until her early 30's. Then she will probably need a heart transplant."

Dancing Water has been recovering well since the surgery. She can now run and play like other kids her age.

She was born with only two of four heart valves and the remaining two frequently block. In previous surgeries doctors have had to connect her heart to veins in her chest and arm to keep blood flowing to the artery.

Beaudoin added that any child who is between the ages of 3 and 18 and suffering from a life-threatening illness is eligible for a wish.

There will be a Children's Wish Foundation golf tournament June 9 in Chibougamau in honour of Kim Raymond, a sick child from that town who died last November after a battle with Cystic Fibrosis.

Denise Brown said that the Eastmain band and the Cree Human Resources Department where she works have been a huge help

in dealing with her daughters' illness.

"I've been able to go back and forth to Montreal at the CHRD, and for that I'm grateful. They make it possible for us to go and fight cancer."

Sadly, some wishes cannot be granted. "When I asked Tina what her wish would be, she said that she'd wish she didn't have cancer. That made me very sad."



Courtesy of Marc André Beaudoin

Marc- André Boudoin and the Blacksmiths

To make a sick child's dream come true or to find out how to help, contact Marc Beaudoin (418) 923-3461, ext 309.



Courtesy of Marc André Beaudoin

Boudoin with Dancing Water and family



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## The Crees of the Waskaganish First Nation



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and enjoyable  
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# SCREEN PLAY

By the Shadow Critics



## Lucky Number Slevin

— Bruce Willis has had better characters as a hit man. Had he not killed you with an array of weapons or moves, he could have easily bored his victims to death. Also, there have been less predictable plots. The baseball scene in the movie was disturbing — I do not know what the director and writer were thinking or

not thinking but it does not work into the plot well. That said, the love interest (Lucy Liu) is incredible and the dialogue between her and Josh Hartnett is worth the price of admission. The way the plot finally comes together makes this flick time well spent.



## The Inside Man

— Some moviegoers might come out wondering who the title refers to — is it Denzel Washington's character of a washed-up cop or Jodi Foster's role of a fixer for the problem-plagued rich (whom she is only too happy to relieve of their money), or is it perhaps the obvious Clive Owens as the bank robber who plans the perfect bank job.

The plot and movie work along at a good pace, and there is definitely entertainment in the movie. It is a movie which I was happy to pay the full price of admission.



## Scary Movie 4

— Thinking it would be good for at least one laugh, I was not disappointed. I had my one laugh at the spoof of Brokeback Mountain but received little else. The rest of the movie was well packed with far too much spoof, and too little entertainment. This is a movie I would have liked to go back and argue over the ticket price, but by the end

of this movie, I was happier to leave the theatre and at least do something with the rest of my evening.

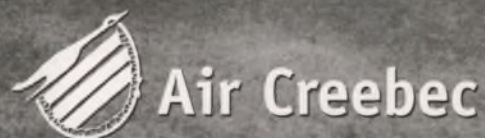
**Bloodrayne** — Bloodrayne is the half-vampire, half-human daughter of a vampire lord played by Ben Kingsley. Her battle scenes at times look as if they would reach Quentin's standards in movies like Kill Bill, but in the end, the editing was too choppy, leaving one feeling like you were at some student film festival. The direction was terrible in this movie. You walk away knowing why the Academy Awards give out Oscars for directors; it is only by seeing the not-so-talented ones that we really appreciate the ones who take the time to make a good movie.

**Tsotsi** — For those who like foreign pictures, the best picture of the past year was this story of a young street kid living in the ghettos of South Africa. He is one of the millions of people who were tribal but have no more land because of development so live in shacks on the outskirts of the city. He is tough, and you quickly learn there is no difference to him whether you are his victim or a friend: he has equal brutality for both. This all changes when he steals a car with a baby in the back — he decides he wants to protect the baby and raise it better than he was. If you do not mind subtitles, and a movie more set on character development, then this is not a bad way to spend a couple of hours. If you are an action or special-effects junkie, this is not your ride.



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Rating ★★★★★

Montreal's Little Italy is known for its upscale, elegant restaurants. One of them stands a head above the rest, however. When you see Joya's recipe below for a caribou meal you'll understand why. Tino Cieco, Joya's head chef, was kind enough to give us the recipes for the complete meal. Aside from cooking, Tino's greatest passion is fishing. If he fishes as well as he cooks I'm surprised there are still fish in the world.

There is always a problem in tasting caribou done this perfectly in that you may never want it done any other way. You will have tasted Cree ambrosia. The meal provided a range of tastes that complimented and enhanced each other in warm, earthy flavours.

My dinner companion teasingly asked if that was a tear trickling down my cheek as I was making such noises of satisfaction and pleasure. This meal was so good we had to stop to give thanks to the Creator, not once but twice.

Johnny Ianaro, one of the owners, acted as our maître'd, serving us the meal with a beautiful Terre del Sole wine from the San Giovese house. The wine had subtle undertones of spice and fruit. The wine was definitely for red meat. It wasn't a harsh tannic wine but one that approached dry with a light sweetness. The choice of wine was made by the restaurant and definitely the right one for the meal.

### Caribou Joya

#### Marinade

Olive oil  
Garlic  
Thyme  
Rosemary  
Bay leave  
Fennel  
Red wine  
Chili (scotch bonnet)  
Peppercorns  
White onions  
Parsley

Marinate caribou in this mixture for 24 hours. Slice into 1-2 inch thick slices and grill until medium rare.

#### Sauce Reduction vin rouge

4 shallots  
2-3 sticks thyme  
2 sticks rosemary  
1 litre red wine  
2 litres game stock  
Salt and pepper to taste  
1 bay leaf  
4 cloves garlic

Fry shallots with herbs, garlic and bay leaves.

Add red wine and reduce until almost dry.

Add game stock and reduce until thick. Salt and pepper to taste. Put on caribou just prior to serving.

#### Mashed Potatoes

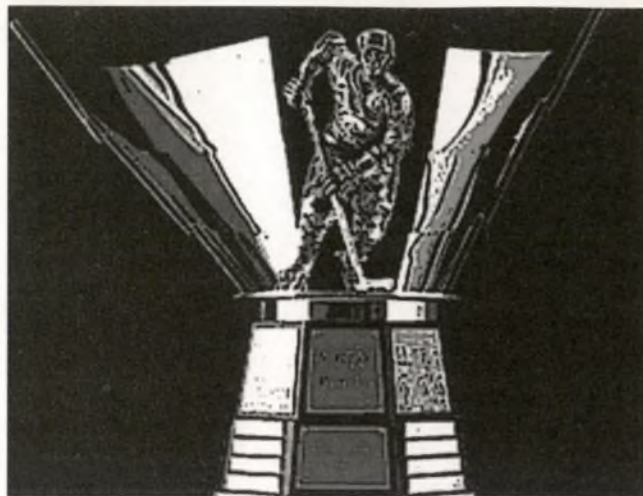
Make mashed potatoes as normal but use olive oil instead of butter or margarine.

#### Veggies with wild Chanterelles (mushrooms)

Sauté veggies and mushrooms in olive oil with garlic.

Italian broccoli  
Asparagus  
Red peppers  
Zucchini  
Wild Chanterelles  
Garlic  
Olive oil

Once again this whole meal was fantastic. If any organization or band council is heading into one of Mississini's fishing camps you might consider bringing along Tino as your group's cook. It would be a great return on services for fishing.



# Congratulations

to Jonathan Cheechoo, #14 of San Jose Sharks, scoring 56 goals and giving him the most goals this NHL season, winning the prestigious Maurice Richard Trophy.

We thank you for inspiring so many through your hard work and for demonstrating that putting 100% of your efforts in your dreams can help you accomplish your goals. Best of luck in the playoffs and with your continued success!



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**God Bless You Jonathan,**

## Grand Chief Matthew Mukash & Deputy Grand Chief Ashley Iserhoff And the Cree Nation

*The Nation*

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## Simplest Onion Soup

This is one of the easiest onion soups I know how to make. It is also a hearty meal in itself even though it can be used as first course. I always found this soup and a salad on spring days to be great for lunch or supper.

- 4 large yellow onions (about 9 to 11 ounces each), sliced
- 6 tablespoons butter or margarine
- 1 tablespoon sugar or sugar substitute
- 2 quarts reduced sodium (less salt) chicken broth
- 1/2 cup brandy (optional)
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1/2 baguette French bread, sliced, toasted (can use the store-bought turkey stuffing but only the flavour-less)
- grated Romano cheese.

Melt butter in large saucepan that holds at least 4 quarts. Add onions, cook over medium heat 12 minutes or until tender and golden. Stir often. Add sugar and cook, stirring, for 1 minute. Add broth, cover and bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer 12 minutes. If desired, add brandy; cook 2 minutes. Season with salt and pepper. To serve, ladle soup into bowl, float toast on soup. Sprinkle with cheese.

## Cheesy Garlic Bread

Sweet Orphan Fanny, I nearly forgot one of the most important additions to onion soups and numerous other dishes. It is the Cheesy Garlic Bread to end all garlic breads. Enough said here are the goods:

- 1 loaf Italian bread
- 5 tablespoons butter, softened
- 2 teaspoons virgin olive oil
- 3 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1 teaspoon oregano
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese

Preheat the broiler. Cut the bread into slices 1 to 2 inches thick. In a small bowl, mix butter, olive oil, garlic, oregano, salt and pepper. Spread the mixture evenly on the bread slices. On a medium baking sheet, arrange the slices evenly and broil 5 minutes, or until slightly brown. Check frequently so they do not burn.


Remove from broiler. Top with cheese and return to broiler 2 to 3 minutes, until cheese is slightly brown and melted. Enjoy.











# UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

## Food for thought with spring goose hunt

by Xavier Kataquapit

There is nothing like the sound of a goose (Niska) to stir deep emotions and memories in a Cree person from the James Bay coast. Recently, I heard the first sign of spring in the distant calls of geese high in the sky. I think I am like most people from up the coast, at this time of year I am just anxiously waiting to hear and see them fly overhead in a familiar V-formation. When it happened, I distinctly picked out their calls in the midst of the ever present hum of the town. I ran out the door and scanned the blue sky, carefully searching knowing that even if I could hear them, they may just be tiny specs in the sky. I had no trouble finding a flock of a dozen low flying geese in a loose formation. I felt a sense of relief in witnessing the return of these geese. It means that winter is finally over, the taste of goose will soon be on our plates and the sun warms us a little more every day.

This year, it's a little different. Now we have to think about a disease called H5N1, or the Avian Flu, that is affecting birds in half the world and, it is thought, will eventually affect those in North America. All winter, the news media tracked the bird flu all across Asia, then to the Middle East, into Africa and finally to Europe. It seemed inevitable. First the domesticated poultry became sick, and then it transferred over to wild birds of all sorts. When that started to happen, the flu slowly crept west from its origin in undeveloped countries in Asia to finally make it to Central and Western Europe in the early part of this year.

There is cause for concern but the main point is that the bird flu has the potential to become a new disease that may be dangerous for humans. This means that there is no immediate danger to being around birds that are not infected. The simple explanation is that the H5N1 bird flu is passing from bird to bird in what seems to be a contagious disease. Part of the reason it is so contagious is that most infected birds are domesticated ones which are housed and kept in close quarters on poultry farms. The danger is that in rare cases this disease is passing on to humans who have come into close contact with infected birds. The fear is that this flu will pass from bird to people and mutate

into a new disease that will be spread from human to human.

There has been much hysteria around the potential Avian Flu pandemic and that has caused a lot of distress and worry in First Nation communities where so many rely on the annual spring goose hunt. The question on everyone's mind up north is, if the bird flu is making many types of birds sick, are geese and snow geese going to be infected? Will they be dangerous to handle or even to eat if they are sick?

The answer was provided in part by the Canadian Wildlife Service in a presentation made to the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) winter assembly last March in Thunder Bay. The service spokesperson stated that the annual spring goose hunt for this year was safe. Although snow geese and Canada geese can become infected, no sign of the bird flu has been found in migrating populations that have been regularly monitored in north eastern Canada and in Alaska. There seems to be no immediate danger to hunters and gatherers in the north. Most reports on the Avian Flu have shown that infections to humans were caused by individuals' continuous close contact with infected household poultry flocks. No evidence has been found for direct transmission of the disease to humans from wild birds.

Even though the Canadian Wildlife Service has made the announcement that bird hunting is safe, they have also asked hunters to take precautions and safety measures if they do encounter situations with possible infected birds. The service provided advice for hunters to: not eat any birds that may appear to be sick; wash hands regularly; get a flu shot; don't eat, drink or smoke while preparing a bird for consumption; cook birds well (as all evidence indicates that thorough cooking will kill the virus) and if you become sick to go and see a doctor.

Even though we have been reassured of the safety of the bird hunt, a dark cloud seems to have been cast over the traditional practice of the annual spring goose hunt. We know it is safe for now and we can only hope and pray it stays that way.

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## EMPLOYMENT

### Job Posting - Director of Sachidun Childcare Centre

The Sachidun Childcare Centre (the "Centre"), which is situated in Kawawachikamach, near Schefferville, Quebec, is a non-profit corporation that serves 26 children. It is presently seeking a Director.

**Requirements:** Diploma or degree in early childhood education or equivalent education / Experience in managing a Quebec childcare centre, preferably in an isolated Aboriginal community / Excellent written and interpersonal skills / Knowledge of the relevant legislation / An interest in working in a cross-cultural context / Knowledge of Naskapi or a related language/dialect and of French will be considered an asset.

**Job Description:** Reporting to the Board of Directors of the Centre, the successful candidate will: coordinate the operations of the Centre in accordance with applicable legislation and internal policies and procedures; prepare staffing and programming schedules; provide on-going training to Childcare Educators; prepare and oversee the implementation of the annual budgets; other tasks that may from time to time be assigned by the Board of Directors.

**Start Date:** June, 2006  
**Duration:** One year (with a possibility for renewal)  
**Schedule:** 35 hours per week / Mondays to Fridays  
**Salary:** \$21.75 per hour to \$24.52 per hour (commensurate with experience)

**Transportation:** Two airline tickets (Montreal - Schefferville (return)) / \$500 transportation allowance to ship personal belongings / \$100 weekly travel allowance (Schefferville - Kawawachikamach), excluding weeks of vacation.

**Accommodations:** Conditional on availability, either an apartment or house will be provided. The Director will be required to pay \$40 per week in rent, with the balance to be covered by the Centre, and the full cost of utilities and other services, such as a telephone.

**Deadline:** Please forward your curriculum vitae, no later than May 12, 2006

to: Ms Dixie Mitchell, Consulting Manager,  
 Sachidun Childcare Centre, 288 Union Street,  
 Fredericton, New Brunswick, E3A 1A5  
 Fax: (506) 450-6969,  
 E-mail: mmmccc@nb.sympatico.ca

No telephone calls please.



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 Sachidun Childcare Centre  
 Centre de la petite enfance Sachidun

## CLASSIFIEDS

### BIRTHS - 100

**Welcoming baby** Keira Tracy Betsy born on April 12 weighing 11 lbs. proud parents are Laurent Blacksmith & Beatrice Whiskeychan-Blacksmith. Finally a sibling for Taylor! A cousin for Nev to play with and grow up with. once again congratulations!! So happy for you both and Taylor! Much love, Renee, Terry, and kids.

**Another precious** baby boy came into my life this Easter Sunday. What's even more special about him is because he was born on my fathers birthday~Jamiel Davis Alexander James Spencer~ Proud parents of Jimmy Pachano and Alexandra Spencer. Sending out my love to you both and your precious bundle of joy.-xoxo- Rhonda

**I would like** to say Congratulations to my aunt and uncle Sarah Blacksmith

and Andy Metabie. The birth of their baby girl(i still don't know her name...lol!!)...I'm so happy for both of you! I know you guys really wanted a boy, two times now! lol...Hope Joy will be so happy to have a sister! Every time I go to Mississini, I always see Hope Joy playing alone and now she has a friend to play with...Lol!! I miss you guys over there in Mississini! I felt Joy all night when you had that beautiful baby.God has really blessed you with beautiful children...Two thumbs up for that one...lol!! I'm just so so happy!!Take care now Sarah and Andy!!!xoxoxoxoLove always Nibin!!...A.K.A Cassidie(here in WaswanipiLuv Ya!!xoxoxo

**Their new baby** was born on April 17th 11:00 pm...We had to wait long for that baby to come out...Lol!! It was worth it

though, hearing the baby cry...It was so so cute...Well, i hope you raise that baby like you raised Hope Joy...Hope is really beautiful, and the one baby will be beautiful as her...I really want my mom to have the baby now...Lol!!...I really miss you guys!!...I luv you hear to Heaven!!LOL!!...Buh bye now!! Your oldest niece Cassidie!!

**I wanna wish** all the best to my friends Romeo and Stephanie on the safe arrival of their 3rd daughter Carlene Alicia Hope Ottereyes on April 12,2006. Take care of your bundle of joy.I bet your girls are excited for the new baby girl.Congratulations!

### BIRTHDAYS - 101

**We Wanna wish** a Happy 20th Anniversary to our parents/grandparents Diane & Eric Matthew on April

22,2006.We love you very much take good care of each other.Love from:your daughters Alex. & Rhonda and sons Ricky-Lee,Eric & Derrick. And Love Always From:Maythan(Mamash).

**I wanna say** Happy Birthday to my Godmother Stella Matthew on April 23,2006.I wanted to say because I love you so much and Happy Easter in case if I don't see you.Love Always :Your Godson Maythan Matthew OxoXo.

**I would like** to say Happy Easter to my son Maythan and Roger,my family my parents Diane and Eric,my sister Rhonda and to my brothers Ricky-Lee,Eric and Derrick.I love you all so much From.Alexandra M. OxoXoX

**I wanted to say** Happy Birthday to these following people All of them will be celebrating their birthdays on



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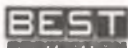


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# CLASSIFIEDS

April to my buddy Shawn Pachano on the 10th, My cuzin's Lily Sam on 16th, Stefanie Matthew on 19th, April Matthew on 22nd, Stella Matthew on 23th, Paulina Matthew on 24th and to Robert (loubit) Chakapash on the 29th, 2006. And Many More... Have fun on ur special days .From Alexandra.M & Maythan'sh

**We would like** to wish our daughter Cherish Mistacheesick a Happy Birthday on April 21, 06. HAPPY 7th BIRTHDAY! and many more to come Love always fr: Mom & Dad

**Happy 1st birthday** to my little cousin Daphne Cooncome on April 3rd 2006. Happy b-day little couzin & many more to come! miss u so much hope 2 see you real soon. from: your cousin in chis. Jaydene L.S

**I would like** to say Happy birthday to the following people... Peter-jay Gull turned 2 years old on 04-08... happy birthday litle guy. and to my cousin's son who turned 3 on 04-10... Zephaniah petawabano... happy birthday YAYA! Happy birthday to my grandmother Maria Icebound..turned 68 yrs old...almost 69 gookum...lol...and to my little big cousin Darius Trapper Mianscum...i love you and miss you Darius...I hope you have fun on ur birthday and dont eat too much sugar ok?... and last but not least...my brother Kenneth Icebound and my grandfather George Mianscum (goege a boyshii) happy birthday...hope all of you guys have a wonderful birthday....love from Hazel Icebound...take care ya'll...lol...)

**Birthday wishes** going out to these boys from Waswanipi on April 14th/2006 Larry Ottereyes. And On April 16th/2006 Richard Ottereyes. Hey my nephew's have fun on ur b-day aiiight. fr us in Wemindji.

**We would like** to say Happy Birthday to these girls on april 19th, 2006. There names are Yuutin Matoush-

Ottereyes (from Waswanipi) And Maryanna Matoush ( from Wemindji) Hey Gurls hope you will enjoy your birthday. Have fun on birthday. Once again HAPPY BIRTHDAY GURLS.....X.o.X.o.X Fr: S.S & E.S.

**Happy 2nd Birthday** to my Nephew-cousin Harry'sh Lameboy On April 23, sorry I Wasn't there On your Special Day but I Was thinking Of You..Have Fun!..We Love You & Miss You. From Your auntie And Your Cousin Daisy Also Happy 3rd Birthday To Tyler-Danny (Boysh) House On April 19. Enjoy your day boysh.

**I Would To Wish** a Happy Belated Birthday To My Auntie's..First Is Sharon Napash On March 31, second Is Lily S-Lameboy On April 16 and Joanne Salt On April 18..Better Late Never!..Enjoy Your Special Day As You Are To Me.. Love You so Much From Your One And Only Niece Daisy Salt-Longchap

**Birthday wishes** goin' out to ma burdie's Vanessa Jacob AKA "Bunshee" on April 6..Hope U Had a Blast on ur b-day girl..and to Ms. Alice Gull on April 20th..dont party too much now! .lol..anyways once again..Happy Birthday Girls!! many many many more to come! Ur Bud. Tammy Joyce (Wask)

**I would like** to wish a happy Easter to my children Derek & Beverly-ann in Chisasibi and to Curtis in Mistissini. luv u guys so much i'll see you soon. love ur mom(ann) in Waswanipi

**I wanna wish** a happy 2nd birthday to Eathan boy on April 17th, luv u from googoo Ann in Waswanipi.

**On May 09, 2003.** A baby boy came into our lives very special, adorable boy, we loved him so much. He was born in Val d'or, he weight 9 lbs 3 oz at 11:40pm and we named him Maythan Jeremy Robbie-James Matthew-Chiskamish. He will celebrate his 3th birthday on May 09, 2006. U are growing up so fast boy! We love you so much. Once again Happy 3th Birthday Maythan Boy! Love

Always & 4-ever: Mom & Dad (Alexandra & Roger)

**Wishing my friend** since our childhood a very happy birthday Paula Chewanish on May 07, 2006 and many more to come. Happy 20th Birthday buddy! and have fun... From: Friend Alexandra M. Chis.

**My uncle is gonna be** celebrating his birthday on May 1st and would like to wish a happy birthday! and many many more years to come. His name is HARRY GUNNER from Mistissini. Love you so much! and miss you! Love your neice Virginia & Riley.

**We would like** to wish a HAPPY BIRTHDAY to my sister Patricia Saganash. On April 19th. We miss you lots! lots and the boys too. Don't forget we love you with all our heart. Take care of yourself and the boys. Love hugs and kisses Virginia & Riley -xox-

**Happy belated birthday** to our daughter Audrey Petawabano who turned 2 on March 16, 2006. You're a big girl now and it's time you throw away that "joujou"! With lots of love and kisses, Mom (Alice) and Dad (Tony) xxx

**I would like** to say "Happy Mother's Day" to the following people: My Mother, Agnes Moore. Thank you for being a wonderful mom and grandma to my daughter, and to my sisters, my aunts, my cousins, my co-workers at the Cree Indian Centre and to all my friends all over Quebec. Wishing you all a day as wonderful as you are. From Amy S. Mark xo

**Birthday greetings** going out to my grandmother Chikalooop (Mary Cooper) on May 5 2006. I want to wish you a happy birthday and hoping your day will be filled with tones of blessings and most of all the love of God. I want to let you know that I love you and I thank the Lord for giving me such a wonderful grandmother who has showed me the love of God and that you never stopped sharing His word with me. Have a blessed day and enjoy. From your granddaughter Julie (Waswanipi).

**We would like** to wish a happy birthday to our uncle Jom (Tommy) on April 26th 2006. Hope you enjoy your day Jom and many more to come. We love you! Love; your nephew and nieces Dale, Kelly and Melody Waswanipi) xoxox-oxoxox

**A Happy Birthday** greetings to my baby bro Alfred Mark, who will celebrate his birthday on April 28, 2006. I am sure you will be doing alot of celebrating..., take care of yourself and enjoy your day. P.S. Carla don't forget to bake him a cake. Fr: Your sis Priscilla

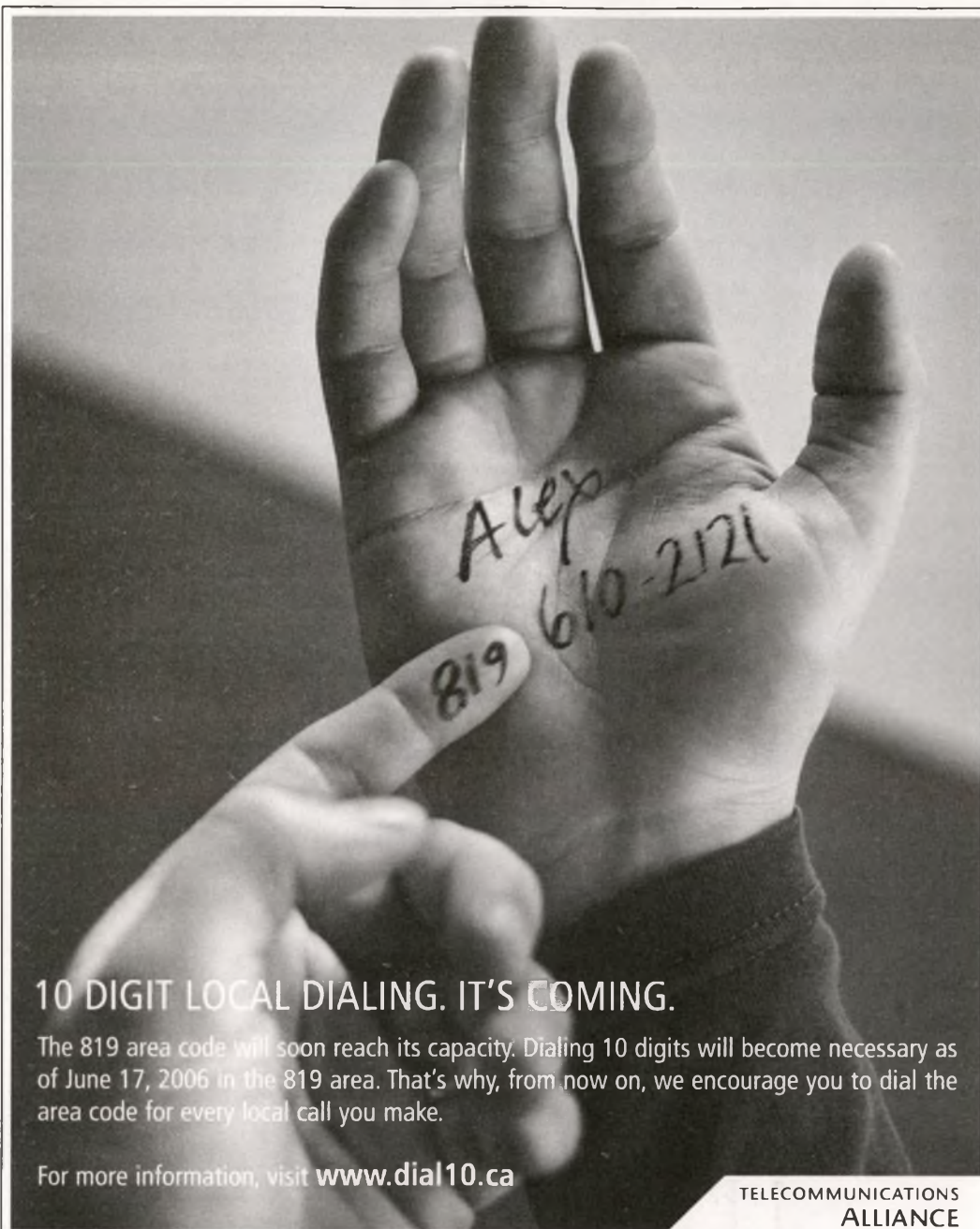
**We would like** to wish a happy 1st birthday to our baby girl Rose-Lynn Shecapio-Blacksmith. On April 28. So many times we look at you and see us standing there. We kind of smiled to ourselves..which really wasn't fair, to keep you from this feeling how proud we are of you. May your dreams become fullfilled as ours once did with you. Words cannot really express how we really feel, you make everything complete, we love you so much. May God bless you, Love always Mom & Dad (Melanie & Benjamin)

**Guess who's turning** the big 1. my baby sister Rose-Lynn Siigouin Daisy, she'll celebrate her 1st birthday on April 28, 2006. My baby sister I love you so much. I hope you have a happy happy birthday and many more years to celebrate it. Anyways we, ll eat lot's of your b-day cake. Love always your big bro and body guard Judas Shecapico blacksmith.

**We would like** to wish a happy 7th birthday to a neice and cousin Skylynn Chakapash on April 19th. We hope you'll have a good time on your birthday and have everything you wished for. Once again, Happy birthday and many more to come we love you so much, love always Auntie Melanie and cousins Judas & Rose-Lynn, and also from Ben. Ps. Congratulations to my sister Rebecca and her B/F on the birth of the baby boy on March 21, 2006 in Chibaugamau,



# CLASSIFIEDS



**10 DIGIT LOCAL DIALING. IT'S COMING.**

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Hugs & kisses to baby boy xox-oxoxox.

**Happy Mother's day** to all my friends Sherrie Serhoff, Erica Blacksmith, Paulene mabel Gunner, Leena G Hester, my mom Sophie L. Gunner, my children's Granny & Aunties Alice S/B/Smith, Judy Maria, Ardine, Bianca, Rosie, Maggie, Laurie, Nancy B, Serin SB, Karen SB, Philemen SB, Also in Nemaska, Mrs. Natasha M. Wapackee,

Chisasibi Serena Chakapash, Alexandra Chakapash, Alice Chakapash, Christine Bearskin, Lee-Ann Benjamin and all those I forgot to mention any ways. Y'all deserve a really happy Mommie's day and maybe a little break. Thinking about you all an all the good Mommy work Y'all doing. May God bless each and everyone of us from ur friend Melanie Gunner.

**We would like to wish a happy birthday** to our grand-parents who will be celebrating their birthdays this month. Our grand-pa Gilbert will be celebrating his birthday on May 5, 2006 and our grand-ma Linda will be celebrating her birthday on May 19, 2006. We wish you a happy birthday and many more birthdays to come. We love you both so much and we miss you both. We hope Mom and Dad decides to visit soon

## Avis public

Régie des alcools, des courses et des jeux

### Avis de demandes relatives à un permis ou à une licence

Toute personne, société ou association au sens du Code civil peut, dans les **trente jours** de la publication du présent avis, s'opposer à une demande relative au permis ou à la licence ci-après mentionnée en transmettant à la Régie des alcools, des courses et des jeux un écrit sous affirmation solennelle faisant état de ses motifs ou intervenir en faveur de la demande, s'il y a eu opposition, dans les **quarante-cinq jours** de la publication du présent avis.

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Québec

so both of you can spoiled us and we can't wait to spend time with you both. Once again, "happy birthday to both of you and we love you both so much". Love always from your grand-daughter Angel & your grand-son Mario.

**We would like to wish a happy birthday** to my Dad/father-in-law/grand-pa Gilbert who will be celebrating his birthday on May 5, 2006 and my mom/mother-in-law/grand-ma Linda who will be celebrating her on May 19, 2006. As a daughter, i'm glad to have a parents like you. And yes I am happy to be your daughter. I love you both so much. I'm so thankful for what you both taught me and everything you both do for me and my family. Happy birthday and many more to come. Sorry we can't be there to see you both celebrate your special day but we wish you both the best. Love always



# CLASSIFIEDS

from Pamela, Lanny , Angel & Mario xoxoxoxo

**To our daughter** 20 years ago around 11:30pm God blessed us you Jenellie and we've been thankful ever since. Today me and dad along with your siblings oh and of course your own daughter Hannah, we all want to wish you a happy birthday and many more to come. Never forget that we love you very much and we will always be there for you. Love Dad, Mom Gordon, Trisha and your little' angel Hannah (banana).

**I want to wish** my mommy Jenellie Happy 20th Birthday on April 23, 2006. Mommy I love you so very much and thank you all that you do to raise me. love Hannah Rose Angel Shecapio

**This birthday wish** goes out to a wonderful little boy by the name of Wayne Coon on April 19, 2006. Happy 1st birthday and we wish you all the best in life!! May God bless and keep you always...With lots of love, Alice, Tony & girls.

**Happy Birthday** Uncle Forrest on May 14th hugs and kisses ,luv Sky and Jayden

**I would like to wish** my daughter Babyjane kaylee a happy birthday on May 3rd, Happy Birthday my baby girl, I hope you enjoy your big day. I love you always from your mom, Lucy Trapper.

**I wanna wish** a happy birthday to my friend Monique Saganash on April 19. Once again happy birthday! From your friend Stephanie across the street...lol

**Happy birthday** to a special person, Miranda Otter on April 21, we wish all the best on your special day just as you are. Please know that you are loved and cared for always from us Romeo Stephanie, Toronna, Lianne and Baby Carlene Ottereyes Take care and we love you. xoxox

**I wanna wish** all the best to my friends Romeo and Stephanie on the safe arrival of their 3rd daughter Carlene Alicia Hope Ottereyes on April 12, 2006. Take care of your bundle of joy. I bet your girls are excited

for the new baby girl. Congratulations!

**We would like to wish** a happy birthday to Lily Lameboy on April-16 And To Joanne Salt on April-18 happy birthday girls and many more to come From Your sister Alice And Nephew Jaylen Salt In Chisasibi

**We would like to wish** a Happy 2nd Birthday to Harry Lameboy On April-23-2006 and many more to come We Love you so much chubby boy Lots of love From your auntie Alice And your Baby cousin Jaylen Salt In Chisasibi

**Happy belated birthday** to our daughter Audrey Petawabano who turned 2 on March 16, 2006. You're a big girl now and it's time you throw away that "joujou"! With lots of love and kisses, Mom (Alice) and Dad (Tony) xxx

**I would like say** Happy belated birthday to my gookum Winnie Sealhunter On March-2 from Jaylen

**I Would Like To Say** Happy Easter To My Daddy Steven From Your Son Jaylen Salt

## PERSONAL - 300

**Looking to rent** a 3 bedroom, close to downtown and/or metro, ideal for a family of 4. Beginning in July or August, for 1 -2 years. If you have anything available or would like to sublet, please send email to wabii-goon@yahoo.ca

**HEY - Y.J.** from G.W. - Sorry we missed you in MTL! Hope all is great - Big Hi to A.H. fr L and M in MTL! See you this summer?

**Looking for roommate** to share with Cree person living in Montreal. Excellent location and price 150 per month and

half bills. Extremely sunny room, two balconies, bathroom redone. Friendly, relaxed and responsible environment. Contact email address s kafo4b5jl321@yahoo.ca

**We would like to say** Happy Easter To Parents/grandparents Katherine And Robert Salt And To My Sisters/Aunts Sharon, Lily, Joanne And Louisa And To My Brother/Uncle Tony Salt And To All My Nephews Anthony & David Napash Alexander, Harry & Ronnie Lameboy And to Trenton Hester-Salt And My One And Only Niece/cousin Daisy Salt-Longchap(eshgosh) Happy Easter Guys! From Alice And Baby Jaylen Salt(in Chis.)

## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS - 400

**The Native Women's Shelter of Montreal** now has a 1-800 number. You can now reach us toll-free at: 1-866-403-4688. Please check out the new website at: [www.nwsm.info](http://www.nwsm.info) and

feel free to give us any feedback.

**Do you need help?** Someone to talk to? Call the Kid's Help Phone's toll-free number, at: 1-800-668-6868 or check out their website at: [www.kidshelp.sympatico.ca](http://www.kidshelp.sympatico.ca).

**Aboriginals and the Canadian Military:** past, present, future 21-22 June 2006 Royal Military College, Kingston, Ontario

**The Canadian Forces Leadership Institute** is pleased to celebrate National Aboriginal Day 2006 by hosting the first conference on Aboriginal contributions to the Canadian military experience. The conference is open to all, and there is no conference fee. [http://www.cda-acd.forces.gc.ca/aborig\\_conference\\_autoch/default.asp](http://www.cda-acd.forces.gc.ca/aborig_conference_autoch/default.asp)

**You can reach the conference manager,** Mrs. Melanie Denis at (613) 541-5010 ext 3868 or email at [cda.aborig.conference.autoch@forces.gc.ca](mailto:cda.aborig.conference.autoch@forces.gc.ca).

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Other Inuit, First Nations and Métis youth are doing the same thing. They're making achievements in sports, in school and in their communities.

The National Aboriginal Health Organization (NAHO) is celebrating these accomplishments. NAHO is looking for Canada's top Aboriginal youth - young people, 13 to 30 years of age, who are positive role models to others.

Schools, communities and individuals can nominate their role models.

For nomination forms and more information visit our website at [www.naho.ca](http://www.naho.ca) or contact: Joyce Spencer, Program Manager, 220 Laurier Ave. W., Ottawa, ON K1P 5Z9 T (613) 233-1543 ext. 548 F (613) 233-1853 Toll-free: 1-877-602-6445 Email: [leadyourway@naho.ca](mailto:leadyourway@naho.ca)

Nomination deadline is May 21, 2006

**Role Model**



# The silence of the wolves

I don't like this. I don't like it one bit. Danger is afoot. Someone's up to something. It's been too quiet in Cree country ever since Matthew Mukash kicked Ted Moses out of office. I hate to say it but I kind of miss old Moses. I miss the controversies he'd brew up. But I think I miss his charming scowl the most.



The word on the street is that he misses being our leader and promised a gathering of loyal followers in Eastmain that in 42 months he will have his old job back and that he is merely on a four-year vacation. Riiiiight.

It's really old news now but I attended and filmed the inauguration of Mukash and Iserhoff in Chisasibi months ago. There was a place reserved for the former chief at the head table near his successor but he failed to show. No explanation was given. But everyone else who was anyone, friend and foe alike, was there to witness the swearing in of the not yet dynamic duo of Mukash and Iserhoff. Billy Diamond was there. Diamond, ever the consummate politician and orator, heaped praise on the new chief and promised to "work" with him. Bill Namagoose and John Paul Murdoch were there, sitting by the Hydro Quebec table looking all

sheepish-like.

I don't know if he noticed but there was an uncomfortable moment during Matthew's inaugural speech. For some inane reason someone had scheduled the Grand Chief to speak during the main course. Now anyone who knows Crees knows you just don't do that. Crees would rather eat than listen to politicians speak so anyone interested in what he had to say had to struggle to hear above the din. Finally the master of ceremonies interrupted the speaker and told the crowd to behave and shut the hell up. Not a good start for the administration.

There are those who've expressed the fear that Mukash, as an outsider, is surrounded by Moses loyalists who are conspiring to make him appear inept and scheming to sabotage his plans. Think of it. More than a few people at the GCCQ worked and schemed and slung mud in order to prevent Mukash from being elected. It was unthinkable for them that someone who had opposed the agreement with Quebec should have access to the halls of power and possibly tear up the paper it was written on. And at least one person said that he would resign if Mukash ever became chief only to send an email within days saying he was staying on. Anyone else would have fired his ass. But Matthew was very Christian in his forgiveness and let it go. Which is ironic because one of the offenses he was accused of during the election was that he was a practicing sorcerer. Or if you prefer, in com-

mon Cree parlance, a feather priest.

It's hard walking into an office knowing that many of the people working there would rather you weren't there at all. I know that because I get that feeling every time I walk into the Nation office. So I can empathize. I feel his pain.

In fact, when M&M walked triumphantly into the Montreal office a few days after his victory, there was so much tension in the air that he felt it necessary to ease everyone's fear with a pep talk. Maybe he shouldn't have done that.

We can only imagine what Moses would have done had he been walking in Mukash's mocasins. Perhaps some burly security guards would have raided the Grand Council offices within minutes after the results were announced. It's not so far fetched. It happened in Ottawa after Matthew Coon Come's election as National Chief of the AFN several years ago.

Maybe locks to doors and computer passwords would have been changed to prevent important files and information from being spirited away. Possibly interrogations of suspected personnel would have taken place in tiny, dimly lit rooms. "Have you, or anyone you know, ever been to a sweat lodge ceremony conducted by Mukash? Ve haff vays of making you talk."

But that could never happen in our tiny, fledgling democracy. That kind of stuff only happens in Hollywood thrillers, old Nazi films and in the imaginations of people who feel things are too quiet in Creeland.





# Congratulations

*Jonathan Cheechoo #14 of San Jose Sharks for winning the individual 2006 Maurice Richard Trophy given to the top NHL goal scorer.*

*In recognition of Jonathan Cheechoo's outstanding achievement of excellence in professional sport in the National Hockey League. Our community acknowledges and congratulates Jonathan Cheechoo for his successful year.*

*Jonathan, you're a great inspiration and role model to our youth (especially to the little fellows struggling to play hockey) and for all First Nations people in North America.*

*We wish you the best in your NHL career and continue putting those pucks in the net!*



*Thank you. Meeg-wetch, Merci.*

**From James Bay to San Jose...**

**A star is born!**

*Crees of the Waskaganish First Nation*



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**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL NISKAMOON COORDINATOR OR ANDREA KITCHEN AT 1-877-441-1101.**